

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Reinhard Hering et al
Application Number: Unassigned
Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith
Group Art Unit:
Examiner:
Title: DISPLAY DEVICE FOR HOUSEHOLD DEVICES

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, I am submitting a completed "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" (*Form PTO/SB/08A*) with patents and/or publications as delineated therein attached.

JP 2002072933 discloses that a prescribed casing is internally provided with the display device 20 having light sources 27, a light shielding means 23 provided with light shielding patterns 23A to 23C consisting of the prescribed designs, and a light transmission means 21 for allowing designs to emit light by guiding the illumination light obtained from the light sources 27 and irradiating the light shielding patterns 23A to 23C with this light. The designs are made to emit light and are displayed through a casing shell 18A having light transparency.

JP 2001337630 discloses an operation box 109 with a display unit 109a on the front is placed on the upper part of the front of a dish washer 105, and a light emitting part 113 is

placed at the lower back of the dish washer 105. The display unit 109a and the light emitting part 113 are connected by an optical fiber 111.

DE 198 35 337 discloses a household appliance comprising an operating element designed as a pushbutton (20a-20c), and is formed in one piece as a component part of the carrier (2). A pressure surface (28) of the push button is located under spring, and after operation returns automatically to an initial position. A material with a sufficiently high restoring force is used for the carrier (2).

DE 197 15 954 discloses a device having a front panel incorporating operating controls and display elements, provided by a front plate (9) and an associated holder for supporting the operating control switches and the display light elements. The holder is provided by a one-piece plastics moulding (7), with stiffening elements (11), defining switch guides at the rear of the front plate and coupled together via stiffening ribs (25).

DE 197 02 957 discloses a display device having a display surface (18) for optical representation of at least two different information display elements (42,44) in respective colours and an associated electrically-controlled light transmission device (40) for blocking or transmission of background light for each display element region of the display surface. A coloured foil is inserted between the light sources (46,48,50) providing the background light and the light transmission device, with a brightly coloured region (70) aligned with one of the information display elements and a correspondingly coloured light source (50).

DE 197 32 561 discloses a control module having at least one push button mounted on a circuit board and with a button housing (6) with connections and a push button (4). The push button housing is mounted on the underside (2) of the circuit board (1), the connections are connected to conducting tracks on the underside and the push button protrudes into or through a through hole in the circuit board.

DE 100 51 075 discloses a procedure involving: (1) preparing identical prefabricated panel carriers (2); (2) preparing at least two differently shaped prefabricated panel stiffener; and (3) fastening each of the prepared panel stiffeners to each one of the prepared panel carriers on its front surface. At least one part of the panel stiffener is connected in non-detachable fashion with the panel carrier. At least one part of the panel stiffener is fastened to

the panel carrier by a glue connection. At least one part of the panel stiffener is fastened to the panel carrier by welding, especially ultrasonic welding.

EP 1 158 248 discloses an operating and/or display device having at least one component (2) fitted at the rear of an operating panel (4), which is provided with at least one opening (6) allowing operation of an operating element (8) provided by the component, or viewing of a display element provided by the component. The front side of the component has at least one fixing hook (10) fitting through the opening in the operating panel and engaging the opening edge (12), for securing the component at the rear of the operating panel in conjunction with at least one fixing device, e.g. a fixing screw (16) received in a threaded bore (14) in the component.

DE 40 10 998 discloses a control display for household appliances, wherein the controls on the device are grouped and colour coded according to function. This display also exhibits the same colour to give instant visual feedback. A computer or ASIC (application specific integrated circuit) can be used. Selectors (7,8,9) can be arranged in a row, the colour selector (10) being to the extreme left.

JP 10031926 discloses a membrane switch 3 is inserted into a housing 4, and a surface display unit 1 is inserted in the housing 4 on the switch 3. A part 1, which is housed in the housing 4 in the overlapped condition, and the switch 3 are fixed by a claw 5. In the case of changing the part 1 because of a change of the display content or the generation of deterioration of the part 1, the part 1 is removed by hooking a pen or the like on a notch 2, which is provided in the part 1, and other part 1 is installed thereafter. In the case of changing the only switch 3 because of a failure of the switch 3, the switch 3 is removed by hooking a pen or the like on a notch 2, which is provided in the switch 3, and other switch 3 is installed thereafter. Since the switch 3 and the part 1 are separately provided, they can be separately installed or removed in/from the housing 4, and the dust, which enters a clearance, can be easily removed.

If no translation of pertinent portions of any foreign language patents or publications mentioned within the "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" is included with the aforementioned copies of those applications, patents and/or publications, it is because no existing translation is readily available to the Applicants. As per the Notice in

10/539944

JC09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 JUN 2005

Attorney Docket No. 2002P01302WOUS

1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned US patents and US patent application publications are submitted for this application which was filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted



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June 17, 2005

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| Application Number | Unassigned |
| Filing Date | Herewith |
| First Named Inventor | Reinhard Hering et al |
| Art Unit | |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 2002P01302WQUS |

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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---|------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY | | | |
| | | GB 2 202 044 | 09-14-1988 | Armin Bohnet et al | | ✓ |
| | | JP 2002072933 | 03-12-2002 | Ozaki Yuzo et al | | |
| | | JP 2001337630 | 12-07-2001 | Tameishi Yoshimasa | | |
| | | DE 198 35 337 | 02-24-2000 | Dieter Roeser et al | | |
| | | DE 197 15 954 | 05-28-1998 | Ernst Huber et al | | |
| | | DE 197 02 957 | 08-20-1998 | Theodor Heuer et al | | |

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
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¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ²Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ⁴Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁷Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY | | | |
| | | DE 197 32 561 | 02-04-1999 | Stefan Hoess | | |
| | | DE 100 51 075 | 04-25-2002 | Matthias Stahl | | |
| | | EP 1 158 248 | 11-28-2001 | Jochen Herbolzheimer | | |
| | | DE 40 10 998 | 10-17-1991 | Karl Baehr et al | | |
| | | JP 10031926 | 02-03-1998 | Akiyama Hirofumi | | |
| | | International Search Report for PCT/EP2003/013652 | | | | ✓ |

Date
Considered

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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